THE PREMATURE REINVENTION

BIEBER THINKS HE'S DONE REHABBING HIS IMAGE. PAGE 14

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Mayoral hopefuls get mad

What makes them angry? With the primary just days away, Week 9 of The Short Answer asks the Democratic mayoral candidates fighting for your vote what makes them angry enough to bust out with profanity and swear words. Their answers might just surprise and amuse you. PAGE 02

Glory... faded

PAGES 26-27

Citizens Bank Park has gone from one of the toughest places to play in baseball to a stadium of echoes. / GETTY IMAGES

New paid sick leave law takes effect today

PAGE 03

Another deadly quake hits Nepal, India

PAGES 06-07

Will West Philly see a housing boom?

PAGE 24

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1 NEWS

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The Short Answer: Blue streak edition

Each week, we ask the mayoral candidates a question. We give them 50 words to answer it. Got a question? Send it to dan.kelley@metro.us

Seven Dirty Words. Mayor Nutter has a fairly well-documented propensity for using not-safe-for-church language. What gets you mad enough to cuss?

"When I see a child put in harm's way. As a father of a 12-year-old son, nothing bothers me more than when I see the actions of an adult bring harm to a child. We are at our best as a society when we protect our most vulnerable: our children."

Doug Oliver

"Work frustrations."

Jim Kenney

"My family might say it's watching the Eagles lose. But the truth is, it's when we fail to provide for the next generation. Kids don't ask for much, just love and the opportunity to learn and succeed. When we can't do that, yeah, I might want to curse."

Tony Williams

"The state of our schools is more frustrating than anything else. I'm dedicated to fixing our schools so every child can get a quality education, and I'm sick of politicians who've been in office for decades acting like they'll change things when we got into this mess on their watch."

Nelson Diaz

"As an elected official I have attempted to use the utmost restraint in expressing myself in ways that some people might find "not safe for church." While I don't pretend to be perfect by any means, this is something I've studiously attempted to avoid doing in public pronouncements."

Lynne Abraham

Eager to work, hunting for a job

Temple students and other job seekers made the rounds at the PHL Airport Job Fair at Temple University's Liacouras Center on Tuesday. Multiple agencies and organizations were conducting interviews for jobs ranging from massage therapist to store manager. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

RIP. Crowdfunding for man killed in bike crash exceeds goal

A crowdfunding campaign to return the remains of a Temple University grad killed in a bike crash over the weekend has more than doubled its fundraising goal.

The Gofundme page to return Vijay Mohan, who died at age 26 in a bike crash on Saturday night, has exceeded its original goal of $8,000 by collecting more than $17,000 as of Tuesday.

The staff of the Philadelphia Public School Notebook, who worked with Mohan in his capacity as a Philly CAM employee, wrote a tribute article recalling him as "a godsend."

The campaign seeks to return Mohan's remains to Kerala, India, where his mother resides, for burial. Having surpassed its goal, additional funds will go toward funeral and memorial costs, the page states.

Mohan was struck by a Buick Roadmaster while biking near Girard and Ridge avenues just after midnight on May 9.

The driver remained at the scene of the accident.

Mohan was pronounced dead two hours later at Hahnemann University Hospital.

Mohan was born in India and grew up in Chicago before moving to Philadelphia.

Friends memorialized Mohan on social media after his death.

"Jay Mohan lived his short life tirelessly helping others & serves as an inspiration to everyone he touched," one wrote.

Another posted a quote of Mohan's: "We could all be much better people if we tried."

SAM NEWHOUSE

Olney

Man shot after hitting four police officers with car

A 47-year-old man hit four police officers with his car before being shot in the chest on Tuesday afternoon in Olney.

The officers were all in stable condition as of press time, and the suspect, who was not yet identified or charged, remained in critical condition.

Police said they were called at 2:16 p.m. to 9th and Olney Avenue for a car that crashed into a wall. The driver backed up, hit an officer and a fire truck, struck two more officers, continued driving, and was shot in the chest while driving into the fourth officer near Stenton and Ogontz streets. He then fled and was caught on the 1900 block of Colonial Street. METRO

Paid sick leave law in effect

On message. Members of city council will take to the streets to raise awareness of new law.

Protesters and workers hold signs during a City Council hearing on paid sick leave on Feb. 3. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Twice vetoed by Mayor Michael Nutter, and under serious fire from conservatives in the state legislature, Philadelphia's paid sick leave law takes effect on Wednesday.

For the vast majority of full-time workers in Philadelphia, that change in the law means little because their employers already allow for paid sick leave.

But for an estimated 200,000 workers in the city, the law could add needed protections when they or their close relatives are sick.

"There's a real need for this kind of law to help people get through tough times," says Center City employment lawyer Kevin Lovitz. "People should have to choose between their families and their jobs."

In effect, the policy gives employees who work for businesses with 10 or more employees one hour of paid sick leave for every 40 hours of work. So full-time workers would essentially get one day off for every two months of work. The law also applies to part-time employees.

Five city council members will be at area transit stops Wednesday at 8 a.m. to talk to workers and spread the word about the new law.

The measure passed in February with Mayor Nutter's approval after revisions were made. But the law faces challenges in Harrisburg, where Republicans have vowed to overrule the measure.

Opponents of sick leave ordinances say they will dampen the profitability of businesses, force business owners to pay less or reduce raises, and allow the most irresponsible employees to call out while hung over.

Studies in other cities however, suggest those effects are real, but limited.

In San Francisco, about 14 percent of businesses reported negative impacts on profits, and 12 percent reported decreased pay and other forms of compensation.

Taking advantage?

Studies in Connecticut and San Francisco showed that workers used, on average, three sick days per year after leave laws were passed.

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Jersey speedboat champ accused of faking death

Resurrected? The former speedboat racer hasn't explained his disappearance after a "staged speedboat accident" last year.

Andrew Biddle / FACEBOOK

Andrew Biddle, 45, accused of faking his own death last year to avoid fraud charges, pleaded not guilty in a New Jersey criminal court on Tuesday.

Biddle disappeared last July in what police say was a staged boating accident. He had recently been summoned to appear in court on charges of defrauding customers at the boat shop he ran in Northfield, outside Atlantic City, when the "crash" occurred.

Biddle, who has a wife and children, resurfaced in February to face the charges against him. The circumstances of his disappearance and whereabouts have so far not been explained publicly.

Biddle's co-defendant, Tracy Blumenstein, 49, also pleaded not guilty. Both men are free on bail.

Prosecutors offered the men eight years in state prison and full restitution to victims as part of a plea deal.

In February 2014, prosecutors charged Biddle and Blumenstein with 13 criminal complaints, including selling a boat and trailer without repaying the owner, taking money for undelivered goods and misleading customers about the costs of certain items.

Since Biddle's return, he and Blumenstein have had more charges filed against them, including for the theft of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Biddle, who appeared tan and calm during his court appearance, did not comment during his arraignment.

Biddle was an active powerboat racer and won the P1 SuperStock Championship. REUTERS

West Philly

Daylong event for MOVE anniversary scheduled

Thirty years ago today, on May 13, 1985, Philadelphia police, responding to the MOVE cult on Osage Avenue and 62nd Street, dropped a bomb on the house. The explosion and subsequent fire killed 11 people, including five children, and burned 60 homes over several surrounding blocks.

Today, a rally in commemoration will be held at 11 a.m. at 62nd Street and Osage Avenue, followed by a march to 38th and Market Street, according to event information.

Food vendors will be set up from 2-7 p.m. and from 4-9 p.m. Speakers will address the MOVE bombing at the First District Plaza at 3801 Market Street. METRO

Perfecting the swing

Sanjin Kunovac works on his ball-striking with an iron at the Strawberry Green Driving Range in Fairmount Park off 33rd and Oxford streets as temps went up to 86 degrees on May 12. Forecasters say it will dip into the 70s through Friday, and go back into the 80s over the weekend with a bit of rain thrown into the mix. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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Another quake

Deaths. Most of the reported fatalities were in villages and towns east of Kathmandu.

U.S. RESCUE TEAM OFFICIALS WITH A SNIFFER DOG SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS AT A COLLAPSED HOUSE IN KATHMANDU AFTER A 7.3 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK. / GETTY IMAGES

The second powerful earthquake in less than three weeks spread panic in Nepal on Tuesday, bringing down buildings weakened by the first disaster and killing at least 66 people, including 17 in neighboring India and one in Chinese Tibet.

The new 7.3 magnitude quake was centred 47 miles east of the capital in a hilly area close to the border with Tibet, according to coordinates provided by the U.S. Geological Survey, and unleashed landslides in Himalayan valleys near Mount Everest.

Villagers who watched their homes collapse said they only survived because they were already living in tents.

Aid workers reported serious damage to some villages in the worst-affected Charikot area and said some people were still trapped under rubble. Witnesses said rocks and mud came crashing down remote hillsides lined with roads and small hamlets.

"We still don't have a clear view of the scale of the problem," said Dan Sermand, emergency coordinator at medical NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres, which surveyed the area by air and saw multiple

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kills scores in Nepal and India

landslides.

The United Nations has only raised 13 percent of the $423 million it said was needed to help Nepal recover from the April quake, which measured 7.8. Relief workers said they were already suffering a lack of material before the new quake.

"Why are [internally displaced people] sleeping on our office floor? Where are our tents? Where are our tarpaulins? Where are our hygiene kits?" said Brian Kelly of the International Organization for Migration at a large relief camp in the hilltop town of Chautara, hard-hit by both quakes.

"They need to be paid for," he said.

A team of about a dozen volunteers searched the rubble for survivors in the town, the biggest in a district that suffered the worst casualties in April. Several people were believed to be trapped. "It's better to search at night so it's quiet," said Rejoien Guru, a volunteer from Kathmandu.

He and others pointed flashlights into the decimated buildings hit by the twin quakes, calling out for survivors. "If anyone is in there, make a sound!" he called in Nepali. REUTERS

Quoted

"We saw houses falling, collapsing along the ridge."

Thapa, owner of Charikot Panorama Resort. He said he saw five or six multi-story buildings come down.

Quake zone

US Marine helicopter with eight aboard missing in Nepal

A U.S. Marine Corps helicopter was declared missing on Tuesday with six Marines and two Nepalese soldiers aboard as it was ferrying rice and tarps to earthquake victims in rugged terrain in Nepal, near a town hard-hit by the latest deadly aftershocks.

Army Colonel Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said reports from the field indicated the helicopter's crew was overheard talking about fuel problems before U.S. military officials lost contact with the light attack helicopter.

A 90-minute search by three Marine Corps V-22 tilt-rotor aircraft failed to locate the aircraft before nightfall, and the air search was suspended. A ground search by Nepalese troops was continuing, Warren said.

"Essentially, what we have right now is truly a missing helicopter. We simply don't know its location," Warren said, noting that the area is "rugged and mountainous" and any radio transmissions from the helicopter might not be heard due to the mountains.

Army Major Dave Eastburn, a spokesman for U.S. Pacific Command, said the helicopter was carrying the U.S. and Nepalese forces when it went missing in the area of Charikot village.

UH-1Y / GETTY IMAGES

Warren said an Indian helicopter working in the quake zone had overheard radio chatter from the U.S. helicopter about "fuel issues" before it went missing. Warren said it was not clear whether the helicopter might have been low on fuel or if there was a problem with its fuel lines.

"The UH-1 had launched to deliver tarps and rice," Warren said. "Because of the terrain, [it] had not been in contact for approximately two hours. No emergency beacon has been detected at this time."

A Nepalese air brigade reported seeing the U.S. helicopter at a location some 40 miles east of the capital Kathmandu, but the three aircraft sent to search the area did not spot it during the hunt before dark, Warren said. REUTERS

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Regulations

Senate Banking bill proposes several changes for Fed

The regulation relief bill drafted by the U.S. Senate Banking Committee chairman includes changes to the Federal Reserve system and an easing of mortgage rules for the financial industry, according to a person familiar with the draft.

The bill also proposes to raise the threshold for banks to be subjected to enhanced supervision to $500 billion in assets from $50 billion, said the source, who is a Republican aide on the committee.

Since taking over as committee chairman earlier this year, Alabama Republican Richard Shelby has made regulatory relief and financial regulation reform his top priorities.

Shelby wants to have one comprehensive bill to bring to the Senate floor, an approach that the committee's top Democrat, Sherrod Brown of Ohio, opposes.

After trying to bring the two sides together, Shelby broke off talks with Brown when an agreement could not be reached, as the Ohio Democrat wanted to limit the bill to relief for small banks and credit unions.

Richard Shelby delayed a committee vote on the bill to May 21 after Democrats complained that information was not getting to them. REUTERS

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New Jersey Governor Chris Christie / GETTY IMAGES

Chris Christie bashes Obama and the Fed

Election in 2016. Recent opinion polls show Christie behind other Republicans.

Possible Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie on Tuesday said the policies of President Barack Obama and the Federal Reserve had widened the gulf between rich and poor.

Christie, who is governor of New Jersey, said Obama had failed to curb spending and that his regulatory policies had led to stagnant growth. As for the U.S. central bank, he said that while middle-class families struggled, the Fed had boosted stock prices, which benefited people who were already wealthy.

Christie, who has yet to say whether he will run in the November 2016 election, detailed an economic plan he said would simplify the tax system, lower tax rates for corporations and eliminate payroll taxes for those over 62 and under 21.

Christie also pledged to revoke rules and executive orders issued by Obama that he deemed "egregious and unlawful." Obama, a Democrat, cannot seek another term as president.

Christie was considered a Republican 2016 favorite until the "Bridgegate" scandal in which transportation and state officials were alleged to have engineered a traffic jam as political punishment.

New Jersey's economic recovery has lagged that of its neighbors and the nation. The state also faces a large public pension gap and has seen its credit rating downgraded a record nine times since Christie took office in January 2010. REUTERS

Quoted

"Bottom line: The Fed's easy-money policies and the president's anti-growth policies have made the rich even richer and made our middle class work longer and harder for less pay and less promise for the future."

Christie said in excerpts of a speech he is due to deliver in New Hampshire, a state that votes early in the presidential nominating contest.

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Five things you need to know

1 Zimmerman had a handgun during incident

Central Florida police investigating a roadway shooting involving George Zimmerman recovered three handguns.

Zimmerman was only slightly injured by flying glass after he was shot at in his car by Matthew Apperson, police said.

The two men were involved in a previous roadside dispute in September 2014 when Apperson accused Zimmerman of threatening to kill him but declined to press charges.

On Tuesday, Lake Mary police said a search of Apperson's vehicle turned up two handguns, a 40 caliber Glock 22 and a .357 revolver with one expended shell casing in the cylinder.

ZIMMERMAN

Police also recovered Zimmerman's Glock handgun but had yet to search Zimmerman's vehicle.

Police said they were alerted to the incident when an officer was flagged down by Zimmerman, "who stated that a person just fired a weapon at him while he was in his vehicle."

Lake Mary police also received a 911 call from someone who said Apperson told him that he had just shot at Zimmerman.

Apperson's attorney, Mark NeJame, told WFTV news in Orlando that his client made initial statements in a 911 call and to law enforcement at the scene.

Zimmerman recognized Apperson, who was flashing his lights, honking and shouting insults, Zimmerman's attorney, Don West, said. REUTERS

2 UVA official sues Rolling Stone over rape story

A University of Virginia official filed a $7.85 million libel suit against Rolling Stone magazine, its parent company and a reporter on Tuesday over a now-debunked story of a gang rape on the campus.

ERAMO

The suit claimed that Nicole Eramo, associate dean of students, was defamed by Rolling Stone, Wenner Media and reporter Sabrina Rubin Erdely in the November 2014 article about an alleged 2012 gang rape at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. REUTERS

3 Senator charged after allegedly shooting at ex-wife's car

A Michigan state senator was charged on Tuesday with multiple crimes after shooting at his ex-wife's Mercedes-Benz outside his house over the weekend, prosecutors said.

Sen. Virgil Smith, 35, a Democrat in Michigan's fourth district, which covers part of Detroit and some of its suburbs, was due to appear in court for arraignment later on Tuesday on charges of felonious assault, malicious destruction of property valued at $20,000 or more, domestic violence assault and battery and a felony firearm charge. REUTERS

4 No charges in Wisconsin police shooting of black teen

A Madison, Wisconsin, police officer will not face charges in the fatal shooting of an unarmed 19-year-old biracial man in March, the prosecutor said on Tuesday.

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne said at a news conference that Matt Kenny, a white veteran police officer, used lawful lethal force when he shot Tony Robinson Jr. in the head, torso and right arm. REUTERS

ROBINSON

5 Man pleads guilty in 'atomic wedgie' case

An Oklahoma man has pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter for asphyxiating his stepfather with the underwear he was wearing in a move police dubbed an "atomic wedgie," court officials said on Tuesday.

Brad Davis, 34, who pleaded guilty on Monday, faces between four to 35 years in prison for the death of Denver St. Clair, 58, in December 2013 in McLoud, east of Oklahoma City.

Davis pulled St. Clair's underwear over his head and around his neck, where the elastic band left ligature marks, police said. The cause of death was blunt force trauma and asphyxiation. REUTERS

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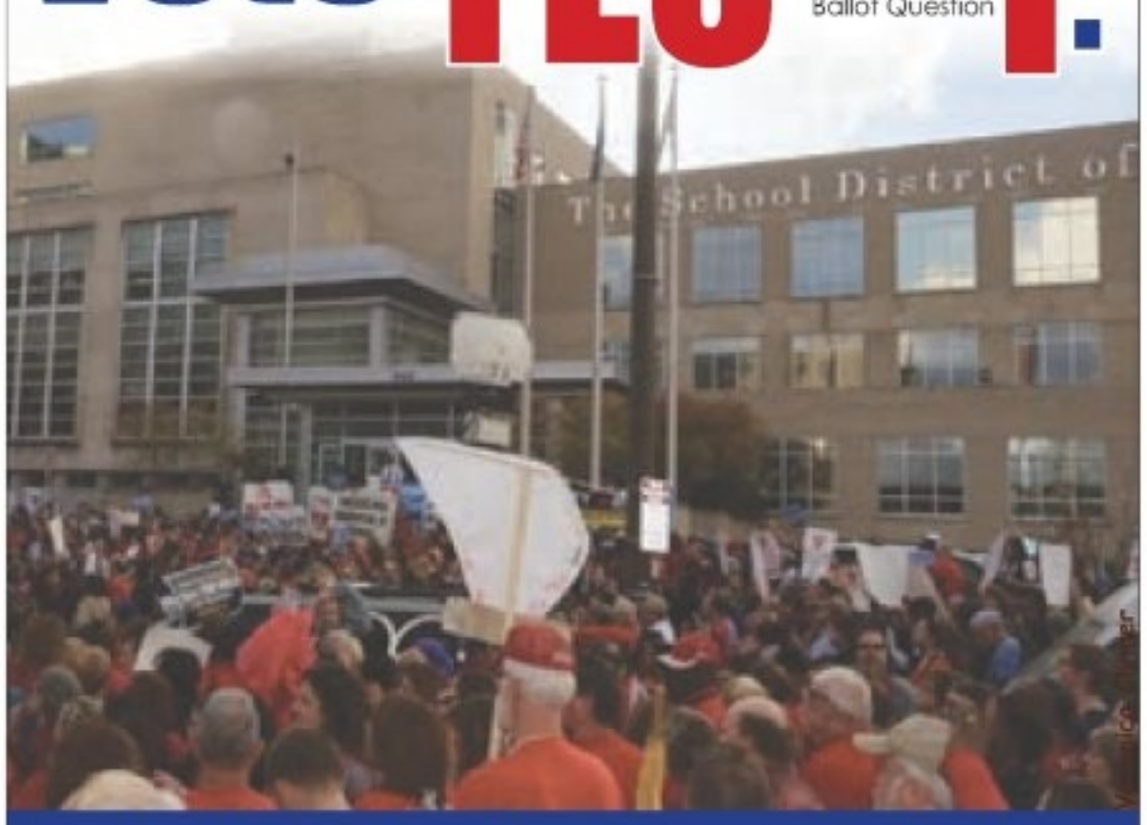

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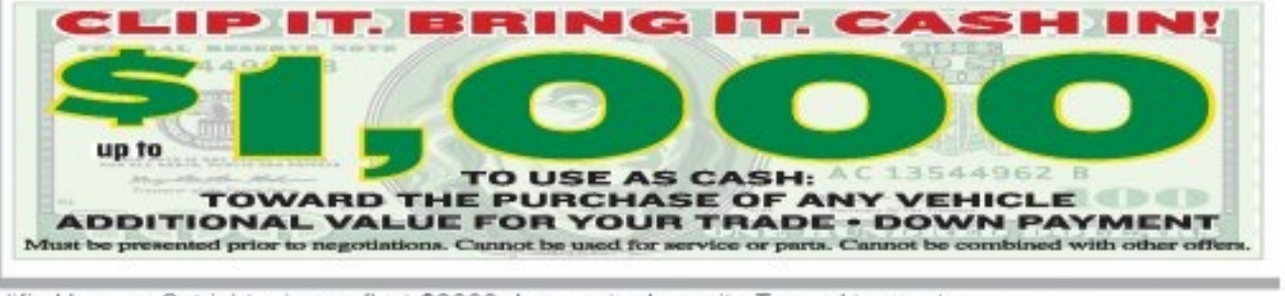
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On the road. Google's self-driving cars were involved in 11 accidents

Google's Lexus RX 450H self-driving car / GETTY IMAGES

Internet search company Google Inc.'s self-driving cars have been involved in 11 accidents but have not been the cause of any over the last six years since the project began, the program's director said on Monday.

A team of drivers that is testing the fleet of more than 20 vehicles has driven 1.7 million miles so far.

"Not once was the self-driving car the cause of the accident," Chris Urmson said in a post on technology news website Backchannel's blog Medium. No one was injured in the accidents, Urmson added.

The cars had been hit from behind seven times, mainly at traffic lights, with a majority of the accidents being on city streets rather than on freeways.

"We'll continue to drive thousands of miles so we can all better understand the all-too-common incidents that cause many of us to dislike day-to-day driving — and we'll continue to work hard on developing a self-driving car that can shoulder this burden for us," Urmson said. REUTERS

Quoted

"If you spend enough time on the road, accidents will happen whether you're in a car or a self-driving car."
Urmson

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Comedians reveal their first jobs ever

Career growth.
Talk about starting from the bottom.

Tom Green

Dairy Queen salesperson

"I was 15 and just wanted to skateboard all the time. But my father was a military man, and it was important to him that I had a job. If I didn't have one, he would wake me up at 6:30 a.m., turn the lights and the radio on, make me get in the car and drop me at the student employment center. A lot of those jobs were telemarketing, like booking heating-duct inspections. I had to scare people into thinking their ducts were full of mites. I would do my minimum requirement and then just make prank calls the rest of the day.

"Eventually, I ended up working at a Dairy Queen, where I got really good at making Peanut Buster Parfaits. If you ever want a great one, just put me behind the counter. I made $3.75 an hour and worked there almost two years. It was really embarrassing because kids from high school would come by, and I'd be there in my little Dairy Queen uniform. It's hard to be cool when there's a girl you have a crush on, and you're selling her a Dilly Bar."

Wyatt Cenac

Locking doors

"When I was 12 years old, my family lived on a street where a lot of new houses were being built. The developer paid me a few bucks to lock up houses at the end of the night. I guess realtors would come through, and at the end of the day, everything was still unlocked.

"I had to walk around and make sure nobody was in there, even checking all the closets. ... I don't know what kind of world I was living in, where everyone left houses unlocked and then paid a kid money to put his life at risk."

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kathleen Madigan

Holiday Inn room service

"This was in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, which is a touristy place, but if you lived there full time, they gave you a job at almost any age. I was only 15 and lied that I was older, and I started working in the Holiday Inn restaurant as a room-service attendant.

"It was ludicrous. I was 5 feet tall and 100 pounds, carrying all these giant trays around. I don't know how I did it. But the best part was that after you delivered the food, you could smoke a cigarette or slam a beer on the way back. I made $2.01 an hour plus tips, which was crazy money for a kid. I thought it was the greatest job on earth. Why didn't everyone do this?

"Once I delivered room service to Dolly Parton and almost s— my pants. I couldn't believe someone that famous was in Lake of the Ozarks. At first, I thought maybe it was her sibling or something, but then I read the bill she signed, and it was really her. I couldn't even say anything. She must have thought I was a frozen, paralyzed mutant."

REUTERS

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CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Jane Lynch is in a New York state of mind, Zac Efron is tired of people tweeting for him, Mindy Kaling is thinking about movies instead of TV, Larry the Cable Guy is having a rough night and Joel McHale is doing it wrong.

@janemarielynch: Even a hot muggy day in New York City is a glorious day.

@ZacEfron: Taking over my social. Get ready

@mindykaling: Terminator Genysis looks good as hell

@GitRDoneLarry: Is it normal to be watching college bowling at 1:13 a:m?

@joelmchale: Happy Friday!

The Bieber Apology Tour continues

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Justin Bieber has made a career of things happening to him too fast and too early, so why should we be surprised that he thinks he's already completed his redemption arc from bratty douche-prince to reformed, soulful sensitive man? The Biebs graces the cover of Seventeen magazine this month — and I can't tell if that's a step up or a step down from Men's Health — to talk about how much he's changed. "I was rebelling a little bit. I was getting cockier and cockier. I didn't have people to check me. I looked back, and I was disappointed in myself," he says, reflecting on his tumultuous 2014. "You have to own up to the mistakes. You have to say, 'I'm sorry if I've let you down.' I always want to be honest and let people know that those mistakes aren't who I am. Who I am is someone who really cares about people." Here's the thing, though, Justin: The more you have to go out of your way to tell everyone how much you aren't a jerk, the less believable it sounds.

Speaking of cleaning up his image, Bieber posted an attempt at a sweet Mother's Day message to his mom, Pattie Mallette, saying, "If it wasn't for this woman, let's just say I would have had a way longer stupid phase." You know what's super-adorable? That he thinks that phase is already all over and done with.

Amal Clooney making high-profile new friends

When you marry a man, you marry his friends, which apparently isn't so bad when that man is George Clooney, and his friends include the likes of Julia Roberts, who has recently become chummy with George's new bride, Amal Clooney. "We've been really good friends for a really long time, and I just adore her," George tells E! News of his "Oceans" movies co-star, with whom he just finished filming "Money Monster" in New York. "She and Amal and I went out to dinner the other night. It was so much fun to have her meet my wife and have both of them be such good friends and hit it off so well." I'm guessing they have a pretty interesting book club going by this point, too.

The 'Full House' cast turns on the Olsen twins

So Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen are most likely totally not going to be a part of the "Full House" relaunch Netflix is cooking up, "Fuller House," but you know what? They're not welcome on it anyway. "Everyone is thrilled about getting to reprise their roles. Well, except for Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen," a source tells Radar Online. "They told producers that they do not feel that returning to the show is in their best interests. But quite frankly, no one really wants them to come back. The rest of them have remained a family since the show ended, but no one can really tolerate Mary-Kate or Ashley. Everyone kind of knew that this would happen though." So there you go.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

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Daily video

COLLEGEHUMOR, YOUTUBE

The realistic version of 'Furious 7'

Spoiler alert if you haven't seen "Furious 7" yet — though given that the action flick has already grossed $1.4 billion worldwide, chances are you have. Fans have been marveling at the ridiculous, over-the-top stunts in the franchise titan, but what if they had to contend with, I don't know, reality and physics? College Humor takes a look at how the heroes would fare, and let's just say there are some binds you can't "family" your way out of.

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Tamron Hall celebrates her Philadelphia Style cover at The Rittenhouse. / GETTY IMAGES

BIG SHAKEUPS IN THE FOOD SCENE

BOLDFACE

A.D. AMOROSI

A.D. Amorosi is a journalist covering arts, entertainment and food news and gossip. He can be reached at divaland@aol.com.

Last weekend was a bloodbath where potential Philly restaurant closings and property sales were concerned. Though it's doubtful whether **Stephen Starr's Buddakan** will have to vacate, its property at 325 Chestnut is listed for sale via Kaiserman Co. **Downey's Irish bar** at 526 S. Front St., however, is up for grabs as of last weekend: bricks, liquor license and all. Doubly sad is that **Donal McCoy** listed his 20 S. Second St. property for sale — that's **Serrano** restaurant and the legendary live music club **Tin Angel**. McCoy won't close either spot before any sale ($1.75 million for everything, liquor license included).

Smith & Wollensky's final day at The Rittenhouse hotel is May 23. Is there a new tenant ready to go, and is it Stephen Starr? One hot rumor has Starr opening either a Buddakan West or something with seafood.

Not every one of last weekend's closing announcements was sad. May 31 will be the last day **Kanella** at 10th and Spruce is open, but only because it's moving to a larger spot in Queens Village (757 S. Front St.) and getting a liquor license. And it looks as if "Top Chef" **Nicholas Elmi** will close his East Passyunk BYOB, **Laurel**, in August — because he's expanding next door with a full bar to boot.

Word has it that one of the original owners of **Katmandu** nightclub at Pier 25 is looking around the **Italian Market** area for a restaurant space.

If you want to see local politicos like **Mayor Nutter** or **Amy Needle** (CEO of Historic Philadelphia) take part in a carousel race, get to An Evening in Franklin Square on Thursday. The gala benefits the historic square at Sixth and Race. Parx announcer **Keith Jones** will call the derby.

Celebrity sightings

- President of the United States **Tony Goldwyn** — at least on the hit ABC series "Scandal" — stopped by the fundraiser for the Atlantic Center for Capital Representation at Luxe Home on Friday. Goldwyn hung out with Philly attorney **Theodore Simon**, famous for representing Ira Einhorn and Amanda Knox.
- NBC/MSNBC host **Tamron Hall** was at The Rittenhouse on Friday for a party for Philadelphia Style's Women of Influence issue.
- Mayoral candidate **Jim Kenney** stopped by **Franky Bradley's** for a fundraiser in his name organized by local pot activist **N.A. Poe**.

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7 Exciting new films at this year's Cannes

Movies. The year's most prestigious fest starts today, and it's a promising, sometimes weird lineup. Here are some of the biggies. And it's pronounced "Can," not "Khan."

'Sea of Trees'

MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

It's been a long while — since 2008's "Milk" — since Gus Van Sant has made anything worthwhile. His latest should at least be beautiful, unfolding as it does in Japan's "Suicide Forest," where two men (Matthew McConaughey and Ken Watanabe) run into each other while individually looking to take themselves out.

'Love'

Apart from "The Human Centipede" maestro Tom Six, there are few filmmakers we're more scared of confessing our love for than Gaspar Noe ("Irreversible," "Enter the Void"), a maximalist whose works mix punishment with hyper-transgression. So naturally, he made a sex epic, albeit of a different breed from Lars Von Trier's "Nymphomaniac." Here he spends three hours with a three-way couple, and also naturally, it's in 3-D.

'The Lobster'

FARRELL AND WEISZ

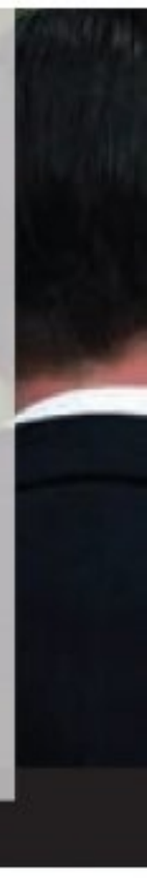
Our most anticipated Cannes film finds Yorgos Lanthimos, director of the genius "Dogtooth," rounding up a dreamy international cast — including Colin Farrell, Rachel Weisz, Lea Seydoux, John C. Reilly, Ben Whishaw and more — for another fit of high-concept absurdity. The bizarre hook here is the depiction of a dystopian future in which people are given a small window of time to pair off; if they don't, they are turned into animals and released into the wild.

'The Assassin'

Shu Qi prepares to hurt people in Hou Hsiao-Hsien's "The Assassin."

It's hard to believe austere Taiwanese master Hou Hsiao-Hsien hasn't made a feature since 2008's "The Flight of the Red Balloon," and even harder to believe it's a martial arts movie featuring one of his regular actors, Shu Qi. Expect an odd, alternately thrilling and hypnotic mash-up.

'Carol'



Todd Haynes' first theatrical feature in eight years has him tackling Patricia Highsmith but not one of her pulpy page-turners. Instead, it's a thoughtful romance between a 20-something department store clerk (Rooney Mara) and an older woman (Cate Blanchett). The source, "The Price of Salt," is notable not only as lesbian fiction from the 1950s but lesbian fiction from the 1950s that doesn't end in tragedy, as most do.

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'Youth'

Director Paolo Sorrentino chases his Oscar-winning "The Great Beauty" with another no doubt acrobatically filmed hang with carousing olds. This one has Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel bumming around the Alps, acting like leering geriatrics.

Dig Paul Dano, Harvey Keitel and Michael Caine's hair in "Youth."

Cate Blanchett plays a 1950s woman considering a romance with a younger woman (Rooney Mara, not pictured) in Todd Haynes' "Carol." / ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CANNES

'Tale of Tales'

SALMA HAYEK DIGS IN.

John C. Reilly pops up in a second international production, this time opposite Salma Hayek as a king and queen in this battering ram of 17th-century folk tales, told by "Gomorrah" filmmaker Matteo Garrone. It should be interesting watching the semi-realist filmmaker doing a semi-pricey Euro fantasy romp that also features Vincent Cassel, "Nymphomaniac"'s Stacy Martin and the ever-filmable Toby Jones.

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Reality TV is not

Television. Reality guru Rob Lee shares where he thinks the format is going — think mobile.

Candace Smith, Dina Lohan and Patti Stanger on "Millionaire Matchmaker." / ALL

Producer Rob Lee has spearheaded more than 500 hours of scripted and unscripted programming over the course of his career, including standouts like "Millionaire Matchmaker," "America's Best Dance Crew," "Euros of Hollywood" and "Blowout," so he knows a thing or two about what makes for successful reality TV.

The reality genre is here to stay:

"Despite the rise of scripted drama in particular, reality and unscripted television is not going away. The economics alone, plus the fact that there is a great demand for it across demographics, make it a staple of our television viewing spectrum," Lee explains. "It ain't going away, but it's going to morph in a lot of different ways. And at the end of the day, it's most prolific in the places that can finance it most effectively and simply, but that model is fluid and changing all the time."

The future is in mobile:

"Anybody who's starting off in reality TV has to focus on mobile," Lee says. "That's the touchstone to everything, because the younger generation still is weaned on and used to watching so much, if not all, of their programming on their smartphone device. Everything's going to collapse into one another in terms of the digital spectrum anyway in how we're going to be viewing television."

Why he's been resisting digital himself:

"The fact of the matter is, because the economics haven't really made a lot of sense yet for me, I am still not pitching to the digital marketplace to a large degree," Lee says. "If I'm looking at producing in that world, I'm still looking at something shorter than a half-hour show. Because the financial models are not generous or abundant enough, that is not as prolific as the short-form comedy or instructional take-away or plain information."

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ROB LEE

The formula

What makes a great reality star?

"It's that unpredictable, big, somewhat crazy personality, but mixed with brilliance and great professionalism and talent," Lee explains. "Years ago, Bravo wanted to do something with an interior designer. He was immensely talented and successful, but he was just kind of a straightforward guy, not that exciting to talk to and was really protective of all his [famous] clients, and I left the interview saying, 'I'd have him — if I could ever afford him — design my house, but he's not a TV star.' He wasn't what it took. ['Millionaire Matchmaker' star] Patti Stanger is a very outspoken, volatile, extreme personality, but she is smart as hell, the ultimate truth-teller, and she really is a matchmaker, and she knows her stuff. Sure, the smart reality TV person knows how to turn the craziness up or down, but if it's still not who they are authentically, the audience smells it, and they will not accept it."

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

TV watch list

COMEDY

'The Goldbergs'

Beverly and Murray get ready for some separation anxiety, as they send Erica off to a summer arts camp for a few weeks, while Barry takes the bold move of becoming his school's mascot.

SEASON FINALE, 8:30 P.M., ABC

REALITY

'American Idol'

This is the second-to-last finale ever of "American Idol"! At least until they reboot it. Tune in to catch the latest winner being crowned in the season finale.

SEASON FINALE, 8 P.M., FOX

DRAMA

'The Mysteries of Laura'

Laura's got a few issues on her plate this week, as her team investigates the murder of a filmmaker, but also has to cope with a very green detective.

8 P.M., NBC

MOVIE

'Hancock'

Will Smith doesn't often get cast as unlikable guys, and this superhero excursion was a rare trip into antihero territory for him. Here, he's a hard-drinking apathetic amnesiac crime fighter who needs a little help with his image, for the aforementioned reasons.

8 P.M., FX

LISA WEIDENFELD

Do you think Melissa Joan Hart just explained it all? Having Clarissa help you solve crimes seems like a good idea.

BARBARA NITKE, NBC

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3 Things to know about Mindy Kaling's new book

Celebrity memoir. Besides that it's going to be awesome.

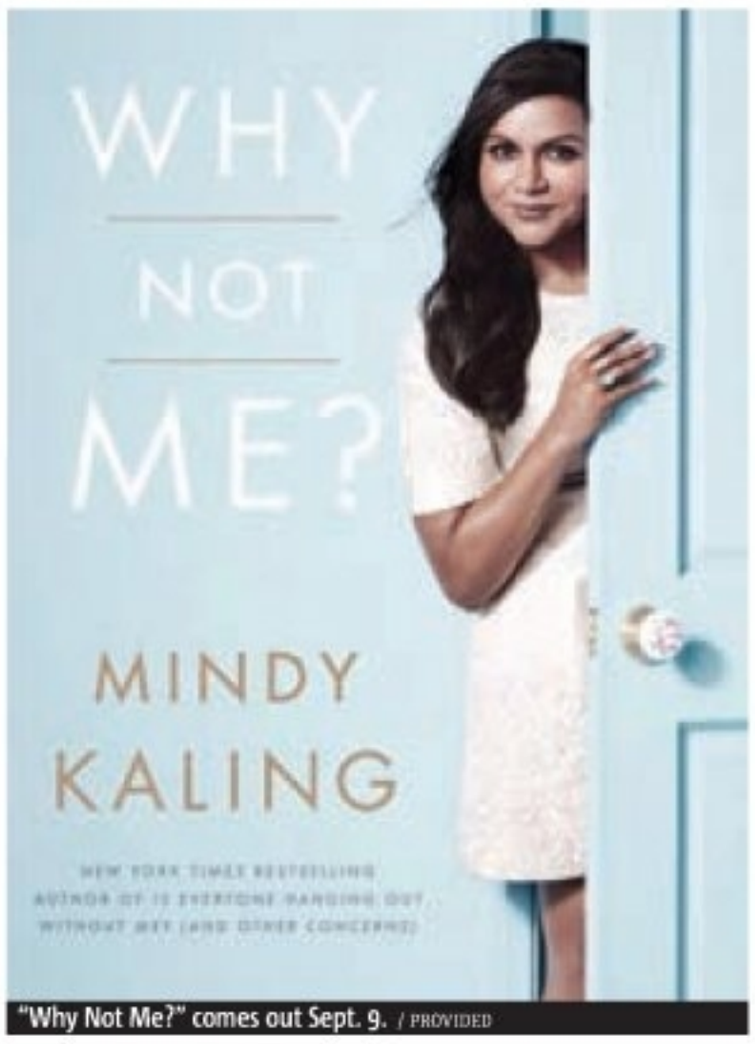
Fans may be mourning the cancellation of "The Mindy Project," but just because the show isn't being renewed doesn't mean you'll be seeing any less of Mindy Kaling. The actress/producer isn't one to sit still for long, and one of the projects she has in the works is her second book, "Why Not Me?" While it won't be coming out until Sept. 9, here's what we already know:

1 It will have more hilarious stories straight from her personal life.
The success of Kaling's first book, "Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?" can be credited largely to her witty storytelling, and her second book will have more of those laugh-out-loud moments. According to the book's description, Kaling will be sharing stories about friendship, romance and attempting to feel body confident while playing the fame game.

2 It might make you cry.
While we can always count on Kaling for a good laugh, expect her to get deep this time around. Since publishing her first book, her mother has passed away, and Kaling is now also a godmother, a role she doesn't take lightly. No one's life is just about the punch lines, including Kaling's.

3 It will inspire you to take more risks.
Kaling says the book's title, "Why Not Me?" is her personal motto and has been the driving force behind many of her career choices. The book will show how she used it to accomplish things other people didn't think she could, and in turn, you'll be inspired to prove the haters in your own life **wrong**.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us



"Why Not Me?" comes out Sept. 9. / PROVIDED

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CASSEY HO

www.youtube.com/user/blogilates

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THREE EASY WAYS TO GET SLIM THIS SPRING

The world is waking up all around us as spring comes into full bloom. If you're feeling like it's time for a new you, too — like by losing weight or getting stronger — the way to do it is making small changes. Here are three ways to get started.

Find a workout that you love

Exercise should not feel like a chore. It should be something that you look forward to. And guess what? What works for one person may not work for another. Whether it's dance, yoga, Pilates, CrossFit or running, the workout that you look forward to is the one that will change your body. The less focused you are on the act of losing weight and the more focused you are on the activity, the easier and quicker those pounds will drop.

Drink more water

Replacing your higher-calorie drinks with water is the fastest and easiest way to effortless weight loss. Also, staying hydrated will help you feel less bloated since you need water to keep things in your intestinal tract flowing. If you don't like plain water, try this recipe:

Cassey Ho has several suggestions to help you slim down this spring. PROVIDED

Natural Belly Slimming Detox Water

- 3-5 slices of fresh cucumber
- ½ small lemon, sliced
- ¼ of an orange, sliced
- Fresh mint leaves
- 24 oz. ice cold water

Why does this work?

Cucumbers prevent water retention and also have many anti-inflammatory properties. The citric acid in lemon has a cleansing effect, helping to clear out the digestive system. Oranges contain flavonoids in the peel and juice that stimulate the immune system while helping to lower cholesterol. Mint helps the body digest more easily and also soothes any stomach cramps you may be experiencing.

Start your morning with this quick ab workout:

Five Roll-Ups:
Start with your back on the mat, feet forward and arms long behind you. Then slowly sit up tall. Control your roll back down until your back is fully on the mat again. This targets the entire core.

10 Ankle Reaches:
Bring your legs straight up to the ceiling, feet pointed. Now crunch up and reach for your ankles. This targets the upper abs.

10 Leg Lifts:
Lying on your back, place your hands behind the nape of your neck, elbows wide. Press your lower back into the mat and lift your abs up so that you're in Pilates Stance. Now, lower both legs down as low as you can without lifting your back off the mat, then lift them back up. This targets the lower abs.

Go bold

Go ahead, add some color to your neutral home.

MATTHEW LEE
@mattlee2669
matthew.lee@metro.us

Winter is but a distant memory, and everything, from the tulips in the park to the clothes of the people strolling in it, is blooming with color.

Perhaps in the midst of your spring cleaning, you've realized that your home seems to be the last thing to blossom. Where's the color? Where's the excitement and personality?

We hit up Susan Hable, co-founder of bright, cheery textile brand Hable Construction and author of the inspiring new coffee-table book "A Colorful Home," to find out how to add some flare into our neutral homes.

How can city dwellers revamp their drab apartments?

"I had a couple of those kinds of apartments, and most of the time, they were tiny so I always bought art. Art is a great way to bring in color and so are accessories in general. Decorative pillows or books really change how a room feels."

What do you say to people who are scared to decorate with color?

"I would say, 'Go to an art store and buy some

"I gave [my daughter] more of a traditional bed, which is funny because I love how it's juxtaposed with the abstract art." ALL PHOTOS RINNE ALLEN

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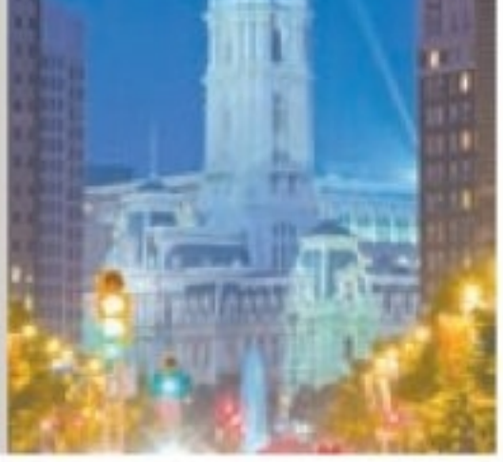

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Where do you start with decor?

"You need your floor covering first," says Hable. But the designer recommends taking your time finding the right pieces rather than rushing into decisions. "When we moved into my house, I barely had any furniture, and we didn't have the budget to go out and buy a whole lot of things all at once," she says. "I think it's almost like collecting, and then your home winds up looking like what you're trying to say."

blank canvases and pick a color that you love, and just hang a pair of colored canvases in your living room.' Then maybe add a book or some accent that reflects that color in the room. [Then] get three things in your room that just speak to that color."

"I have a color in my keeping room — it's a medium-to-dark blue with a green cast to it. Colors like that work. I would consider it a 'gateway color.'"

What is the most difficult color to work with?

"I have a hard time working with red. I feel like it causes people's blood pressure to go up. It's an active color to be engulfed in. If you're a real risk-taker, red might be right for you. I consider myself a colorful person, but I rarely ever use red."

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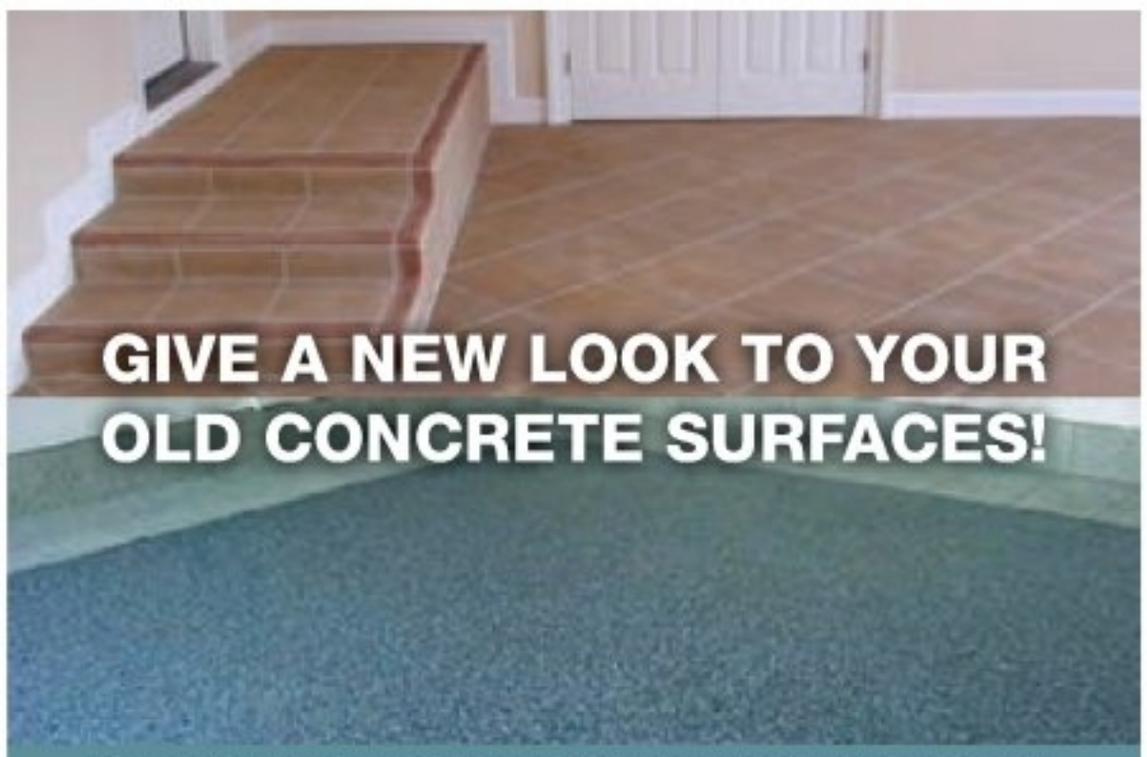

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When finished this summer, 3737 Chestnut will add almost 300 apartments to the neighborhood. RADNOR PROPERTY GROUP LLC

New development in West Philly

Millennials are sticking around — and creating a need for more housing in the neighborhood.

JULIA WEST
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

A rendering of the game room at 3737 Chestnut. RADNOR PROPERTY GROUP

We've seen an increase in new residential development in West Philadelphia over the last few years, and it doesn't look to be slowing down.

Take, for example, the under-construction 3737 Chestnut: almost 300 units stacked 25 stories high. Modular homes have gone up at 46th and Sansom, and there are two big proposals in the works nearby: one from Orens Brothers Real Estate — in the early stages and awaiting approval — for development at 44th and Chestnut and one for 132 apartments across from Clark Park at 43rd Street and Baltimore Avenue.

Barry Grossbach, zoning chair of the Spruce Hill Community Association, explains that the vision for 43rd Street and Baltimore Avenue required three years of city planning and development. So it may also be a while before we see the Orens Brothers project break ground. But even though these projects can be slow to get off the ground, developers think they're worth it.

"Philadelphia has a lot of development opportunity. We see this in Brewerytown. We see this in Point Breeze, and we see this in the Fishtown and Kensington areas," explains Scott Li, founder of RealtyTopia. "West Philly is another up-and-coming neighborhood, and what Orens Brothers is doing makes sense. You have nearby colleges that will always create a demand for student housing and a student lifestyle nearby."

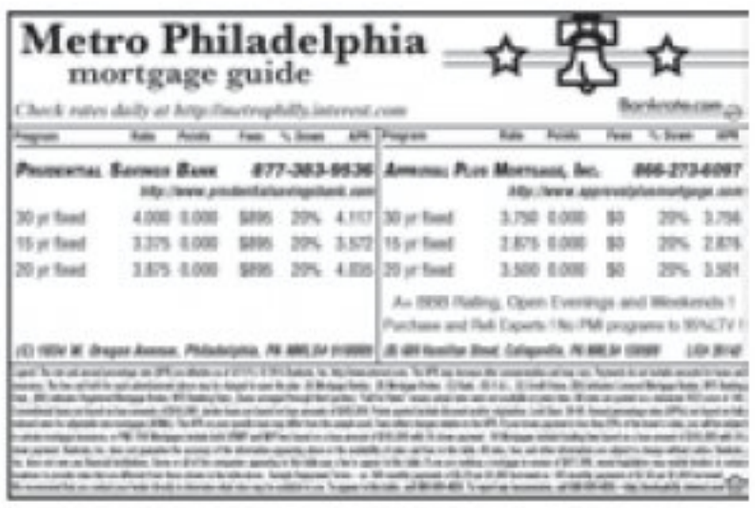
Scott Orens, partner at Orens Brothers Real Estate, agrees with that assessment. "All the development in Center City, particularly those near the universities, makes this development a natural path."

There's allure for students and professionals alike. "People find it to be a desirable area," explains Grossbach. "Not just empty nesters but a growing contingent of Millennials who stay after school or see Philadelphia as a place to find work at a bargain price compared to other East Coast cities," he says.

And with an influx of Millennials comes the need for more nightlife, entertainment and retail in the area.

Past vs. future

Change garners mixed reactions. "There are always going to be folks that feel the character of the neighborhood is changed by development," Grossbach says. "[There is] a certain architectural housing style that'll be compromised. But there's a general feeling that you can't re-create the past. If you have a big lot, you don't build a set of twins that look like they were there for a century — it doesn't work."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Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Don't damage your reputation by sharing private details. You will lose the trust of friends if you divulge information that someone trusted you to keep secret.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
There is usually more than one way to do things. If you share your ideas, you will find new ways to conquer old challenges.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
An elderly friend or relative will provide meaningful advice. Listen and learn. Legal or health issues have to be dealt with promptly.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Keep up with career innovations and trends. A business meeting or event will introduce you to prospective colleagues.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Don't resist change. The very matter that seems negative now will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. Be patient.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Don't wait for someone else to make the first move. If you resolve to be an active participant, you will learn much more than if you sit on the sidelines.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
You don't have to stick to the status quo. You have what it takes. A change in attitude will breathe new life into your routine.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Volunteering your time or services is a great way to socialize with people who share your views and values. Brainstorming could lead to advancement.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
You can gain an advantage over your competition if you watch and learn. By being observant, you will wait for the ideal chance.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You will meet someone intent on discovering your personal secrets. Don't give in to pressure. Be firm and keep your thoughts to yourself.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
You will encounter someone who is drawn to you. To avoid a mishap, be very clear about where you stand.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
Love is highlighted. Networking with friends and neighbors will open your eyes to an intriguing new field. EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	2				5			3
				1				4
5		7			2		1	9
			4				9	6
		2	5		8	4		
7	9				3			
1	7		8			6		2
8				3				
2			6				5	

	3	2		1	6	4		
6		5			8			3
			3					6
	9		6					1
	6						3	
7					3		6	
2					9			
4			8			6		7
		7	2	6		8	1	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters to the editor

Moms need money

Re: 'NYC Mammas Give Back helps mothers in need' (Metro.us, March 11) Unfortunately, Metro missed an opportunity to help on Mother's Day by not going deeper in your story about NYC Mammas Give Back. The logical question is why women have to be rescued by well-meaning people when the United States is supposed to have income safety net programs that provide critical income for people while they are not in the paid workforce. Our "safety net" for mothers and others who do not earn sufficient wages is the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program, also known commonly as "welfare." New York State and other states ask for and receive the money from the feds — then proceed to keep hundreds of millions of the grant unspent. While Ms. Eng and her daughter are scrounging around, the legislators of her state are looking around and claiming they have no one left to spend the money on. That is criminal, in my view. No matter what state a mother lives in, the amount of her so-called welfare check is pegged at anywhere from 11 percent of the poverty line (Louisiana), to about 60 percent in New York. All of this insufficiency in our income safety net is what gives rise to more small service organizations, but we need to understand that these are not the solution to a lack of income. Mothers need money, not used baby items. Ms. Rubin is to be praised for her work, but she is wrong that there is a "gap in services." There are many organizations who give things away, or at least say they do. What there is isn't a gap in services but a gap in income. The current TANF program will not help a mother in need who wants to stay home with her child; instead, it will force her to accept low-wage work and will make the public pay for her day care while she does that waged work. If there is any injustice worth fighting on Mother's Day, it is the fight to allow a parent a decent income safety net so she isn't reduced to poverty.
DIANE R. PAGEN, VIA EMAIL

Crossword

Across
1 P.D.Q. —
5 Not sunny-side up
9 Pep up
14 Queens stadium
15 Port near Mauna Loa
16 Astaire sister
17 Mallard cousin
18 Gaelic pop star
19 Finalizes
20 Accord
22 Used-car deals
24 Countesses' husbands
26 Diamond —
27 Ned of "Deliverance"
30 Arnold action flick (2 wds.)
35 Expire, as a policy
36 Reimbursed
37 The Force was with him
38 Deadly snake
39 Move like a scared rabbit
42 Veto
43 Brooks and Gibson
45 Grimace
46 Mrs. Kramden
48 Party animal?
50 Leaflets
51 Earth envelope
52 Marsh stalker
54 Is parched
58 Akhenaten, "the — Pharaoh"
62 Attractive guys
63 By and by
65 Gallivant
66 Sprightly
67 Modem-speed unit
68 Sacked out
69 Lugged about
70 Like gargoyles
71 — -majeste

Down
1 Tub session
2 Disoriented
3 Grill steaks
4 Gridders' headgear
5 Porter nom de plume (2 wds.)
6 Fake leather
7 England's Isle of —
8 Loud noise
9 Dog star
10 For best results
11 Tender cutlets
12 "Vogue" rival
13 Loch of note
21 Warren of "Dillinger"
23 Not be detected
25 Law
27 Find fault with
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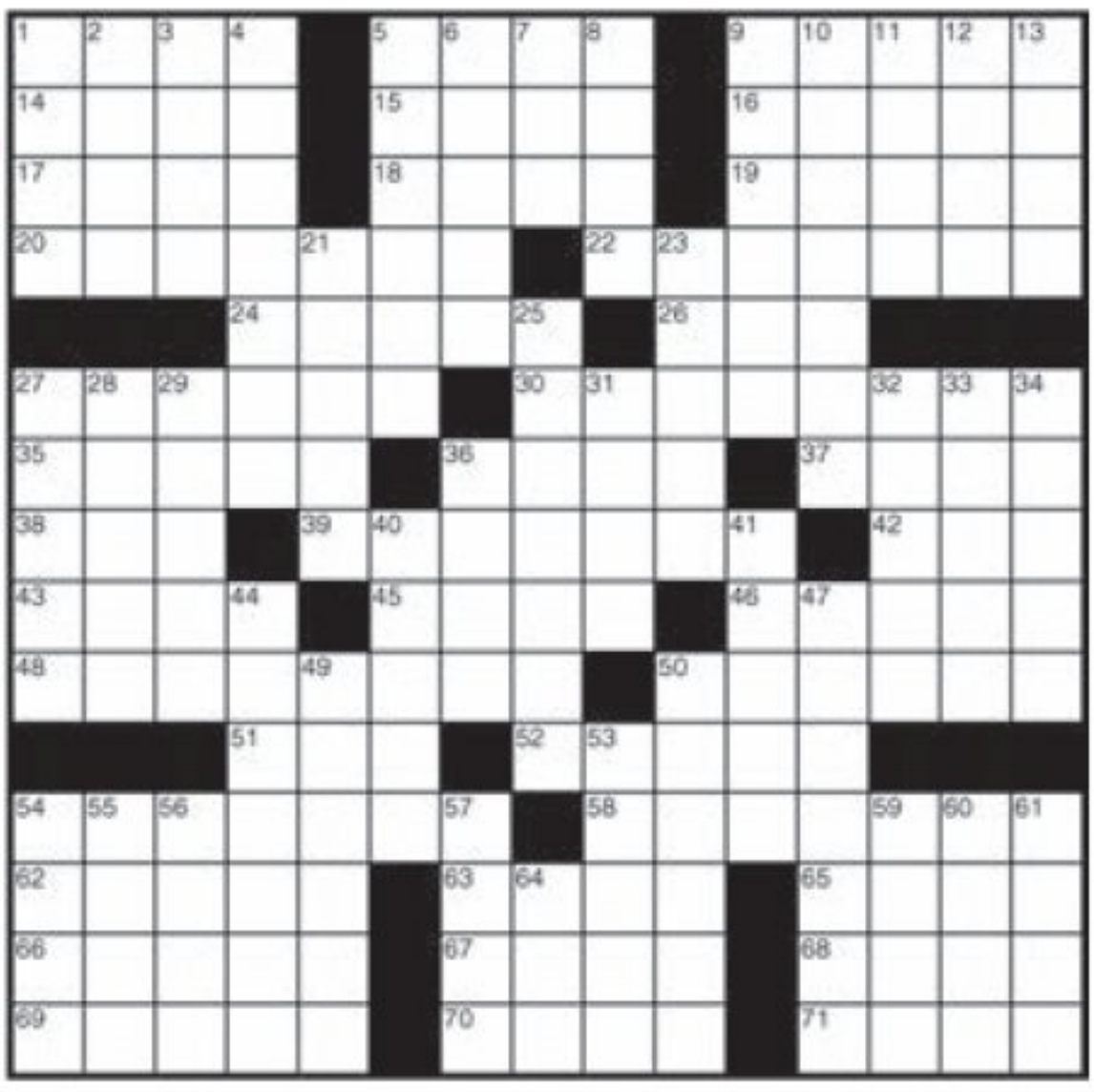

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3

SPORTS

Roster shake-up

Asche sent to Triple-A

After opening the year as the Phillies third baseman and hitting .245 with two home runs and four RBIs, he also committed four errors in the field. Philly sent Cody Asche down to Triple-A Monday night. He will learn a new position, left field, and make room for prospect Maikel Franco at third.

From 257 straight sellouts

MLB. Citizens Bank Park has gone from a diabolical place to play vs. the Phillies to a half-empty shadow.

One-time World Series MVP Cole Hamels is not used to pitching in a half-empty Citizens Bank Park. / GETTY IMAGES

Sitting in the dugout moments before Roy Halladay would go out and no-hit the Reds in Game 1 of the 2010 NLCS, Aaron Harang got a taste of what Citizens Bank Park could be like.

"The intensity level even before the game started was insane," recalled Harang, probably never dreaming that day he'd wind up a Phil four years later. "The whole day and night as Doc was pitching, it became more intense. Towels were flying constantly. Everybody was into it."

"As a visitor, it was tough to come in here," agreed Chad Billingsley, who as a Dodger was rocked for eight runs in an 8-5 loss in Game 2 of the 2008 NLCS. "The crowd was always into it. It's nice to be on the other side and not getting yelled out. Sitting in the dugout, you'd hear the fans really into the game."

That was then — back when the Phillies were in the midst of their five-year run of NL East titles. Back when filling the ballpark to capacity was the norm, no matter the opponent, no matter the weather, no matter what else was happening around town.

My, how times have changed. The place that once sold out a National League record 257 games in a row from July 7, 2009, to August 5, 2012, now is routinely little more than filled halfway. Not only have the 2015 Phillies plummeted in the standings, their rabid fan base has pretty much disappeared.

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Quoted

"It's tough when your organization goes through a rebuild and isn't up to past standards. You understand it as a player, but when you're a fan, and your team's had success, it's hard." Aaron Harang

to cheer on the Red Sox — and the average attendance through Monday is just 24,819. And while it's still nice to bring the family to the ballpark or hang out with friends — especially now that you can get discounted tickets on Groupon — the fervor that made Citizens Bank Park so intimidating for visitors and so welcoming for the home team simply no longer exists.

After all, when management says the earliest the team can expect to contend is 2017, many think, "Why bother?"

"I've played in a lot of places and Philly fans expect a lot from their players," Harang said. "They expect to win all the time. They've had a couple of tough years, but they expect what they had before."

Especially if you've lived through all those highs before the lows started bringing them down.

"The fans have been behind us a long time," said Carlos Ruiz, who, along with Ryan Howard, Chase Utley and Cole Hamels, is among the lone survivors from the 2008 World Champions. "They want to see good baseball. Hopefully at some point, it will change and we'll start playing better baseball and win some games and make everybody happy."

Because playing here never used to be much fun for visiting players.

"When they started winning, it was tough to play here, especially with these fans," said Jeff Francoeur, who spent four seasons in Atlanta. "They love all their teams up here and are gonna get behind you. But you have to go out and perform."

Players will argue that it's no different here than anywhere else. Win, and they'll love you and come out. Lose, and they'll stay away. Still, it's shocking to see all those empty seats and hear the silence reverberate.

"It's loud, and it used to be intimidating for a lot of teams coming in," said 2008 LCS hero turned broadcaster Matt Stairs. "You do see a lot of empty seats now, but it's expected. They have to basically earn the respect of getting fans back by putting a competitive team on the field."

Until then, for the most part, Citizens Bank Park will rest in peace.

JON MARKS
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MLB Power Rankings | by Ryan Hannable

No. 1

Cardinals (22-9)

Even with losing two straight games, the Cardinals still have the best record in baseball. Michael Wacha's five wins are tied for second in the NL.

No. 2

Dodgers (21-10)

Adrian Gonzalez leads the league with 29 RBIs while Zack Greinke has the best ERA in the NL at 1.52.

No. 3

Yankees (21-12)

The Yankees have maintained their solid play the last few weeks, winning seven of their last 10. Their 160 runs scored are the most in the AL.

No. 4

Royals (20-12)

Kansas City has topped Detroit for first in the AL Central. Their plus-41 run differential is tops in the AL, and Eric Hosmer's 25 RBIs are fourth in the AL.

No. 5

Mets (20-12)

New York has played extremely will at home — 13-3 — but are 7-9 on the road and just 2.5 games up in the NL East.

No. 6

Astros (20-12)

The Astros have cooled off this week, but even so, still hold a five-game lead in the AL West. They are led by ace Dallas Keuchel, who has a 1.39 ERA.

No. 7

Tigers (19-13)

It wasn't the best of weeks for Detroit as they lost two straight and six of their last 10 to fall out of first place in the AL Central.

No. 8

Twins (18-14)

It has been a balanced team effort during a recent hot streak, with closer Glen Perkins earning 11 saves, second in the AL.

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Philly area hoops stars to compete for $1 million

The Basketball Tournament. Ryan Brooks, Reggie Redding and Garrett Williamson among members of 2015 Liberty Ballers.

Ryan Brooks and the Liberty Ballers are no strangers to the Philadelphia hoops scene. / GETTY IMAGES

If anything goes wrong with the Sixers rebuild, Sam Hinkie might want to keep an eye on 18-year-old Jake Pavorsky, who's well on his way to becoming the youngest general manager the city of Philadelphia has ever had.

Pavorsky, who took the reins as the managing editor of popular Sixers website LibertyBallers.com before the 2014-15 season, has spent the past few months tirelessly building a roster for The Basketball Tournament — a 5-on-5, single-elimination, winner-takes-all tournament for $1 million, which gets underway at Philadelphia University on July 17.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play a general manager," Pavorsky said. "Obviously I've always wanted to be a general manager for an NBA team, and I know how hard that is, so being part of The Basketball Tournament helped me live out sort of a childhood sports fantasy, and it's been very enjoyable."

Quoted

"I think we have a really good chance of going far and winning it all. I can't wait for the tournament, come July." Jake Pavorsky

His team, Liberty Ballers, is made up of a ton of locally grown talent such as Reggie Redding (Villanova), Ryan Brooks (Temple), Garrett Williamson (St. Joesph's) and Ronald Moore (Siena). Brooks and Williamson were teammates at Lower Merion High School, leading the Aces to the 2006 AAAA State Championship.

"I decided to build a team back when registration opened up in April," Pavorsky said. "Using contacts that I've made through the years from writing, I started reaching out to whoever could help and eventually started reaching out to players on Facebook when things got a little desperate."

Pavorsky's team currently ranks sixth in the Northeast Region in terms of fan votes. The top eight in each region will receive a first-round bye. He's doing all he can to increase the votes while keeping an eye on the other teams in his region.

"Getting into the top eight is huge for us," Pavorsky said. "The Syracuse team [ranked first in the region] is very good. Seeing former NBA guys like Hakim Warrick willing to play in the tournament is great."

Other local teams include The Blue and Gold Club, which features Chris Fouch (Drexel) as well as a slew of former Drexel alumni. Team 20th and Olney features five members of La Salle's 2012-13 Sweet 16 run team, including Ramon Galloway and Tyrone Garland.

"The cool thing about this team is that these are guys who all know each other very well, and it's really just a true Philadelphia team," Pavorsky said. "They've played with each other in college, in high school — we have a few Villanova and Siena guys who've made tournament runs together."

JEFF MCMENAMIN
@Jeff_McMenamin
sports@metro.us

The roster

Here's a look at the full roster for the Liberty Ballers.

- Ryan Brooks, Temple
- Reggie Redding, Nova
- Garrett Williamson, St. Joseph's
- Ronald Moore, Siena
- Antonio Pena, Nova
- Cameron Moore, UAB
- Kenny Hasbrouck, Siena
- Ryan Foster, Siena

Close but not quite

Liberty Ballers nearly nabbed Wagner

Jake Pavorsky reached out to former Camden star Dajuan Wagner's people in an attempt to lure undoubtedly the most notable name he could onto team Liberty Ballers. Wagner, a former sixth pick in the 2002 NBA Draft, once scored 100 points in a game for Camden High School, and he left as the state of New Jersey's all-time leader in points scored with 3,462.

"I tried reaching out to Dajuan Wagner's people to try and get him on the team," Pavorsky said. "I know he played some semi-pro ball recently, and I heard he was trying to make a comeback professionally. Unfortunately, I was told he's actually going to be playing professionally in Puerto Rico this summer during a time which overlaps with the tournament. It was a little disappointing. ... Having him play high-level basketball again at an event like TBT would be an incredible storyline. It's a shame we missed out on him, but it's great he'll have the opportunity to play professionally again no matter where it is."

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NFL. Bizarre season ahead for Patriots in Deflategate aftermath

On top of the odd scene that will be a man not named Tom Brady taking snaps for the Patriots (Jimmy Garoppolo is expected to start in Week 1), there is an increasing likelihood that the team will protest Brady's suspension in one form or another.

With 121 days to go until the Patriots take the field on national TV against the Steelers, there are likely to be judges and courts and more bombastic quotes from the NFLPA, the NFL, the Patriots and Brady's agent Don Yee. Brady may even get his suspension knocked down from four games to two or even just one. But when owner Robert Kraft backtracked Monday night and said that his organization would not accept the discipline given out by the league due to its excessiveness, he basically said, "It's on!" to the NFL.

Nothing can be ruled out now when it comes to what the Patriots will do in Week 1 to irk the NFL. On 98.5 The Sports Hub, it was joked that the Patriots should wear a No. 12 patch on their jerseys in honor of Brady. Maybe the team will spray paint a giant "12" at midfield instead of the Patriots logo. Maybe audio of Brady's voice will introduce the team over the loudspeakers.

Brady was suspended four games and the Patriots were docked two draft picks and $1 million for Deflategate. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Tom Brady has our unconditional support. Our belief in him has not wavered."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft in a statement released Monday.

Already in motion on social media is a campaign called, "No Brady, No Banner." Traditionally on opening night of the NFL season, the defending Super Bowl champions have a banner-raising ceremony broadcast as part of the NFL's kickoff celebration. Because of Brady's importance to the Pats winning this past season's Super Bowl, there are rumblings that the team will treat the league's Week 1 celebration as just another game with zero pomp and circumstance.

The NFL made it certain this week that its first game of the 2015 season will not feature one of its marquee faces in Brady. Instead, the nation will see Garoppolo, and it just may see one of the largest live protests in the history of sports. **MATT BURKE**

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